

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01576 170503Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PPT-01 SCA-01 PER-01 A-01 EUR-12 ARA-06

EB-08 COME-00 DODE-00 AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 USIA-06 OMB-01 SY-05 SS-15 OC-06 CCO-00 SCS-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1576

GDS

PINS, ASEC, ET

SUBJECT: VISITORS TO ADDIS ABABA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1527

1. I BELIEVE IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO CLARIFY TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES STEPS MISSION PERSONNEL ARE TAKING IN VIEW OF MY RECOMMENDATION THAT TOURISTS SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED FROM TRAVELING TO ADDIS AND OFFICIAL VISITS SHOULD BE CURTAILED UNLESS TRIP IS NECESSARY OR SERVES MISSION OBJECTIVES.

2. COUNTRY TEAM SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE MET MAY 15 TO REVIEW SECURITY SITUATION AND FOLLOWING GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS WERE GIVEN TO OFFICIAL PERSONNEL (SOME OF WHICH WERE ALREADY IN EFFECT); (A) PERSONNEL SHOULD GET HOME EARLIER AND AVOID TRAVEL CLOSE TO MIDNIGHT CURFEW, (B) REFRAIN FROM TRAVEL OUT OF ADDIS ABABA AT NIGHT, (C) DRIVE SLOWLY IN TOWN, (D) OBEY ALL SECURITY OFFICIALS,(IN OR OUT OF UNIFORM) WITHOUT QUESTION AND LET EMBASSY RAISE POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS OF DIPLOMATIC PRIVELEGE AFTER FACT, (E) STAY ON MAIN ROADS IN CITY (F) AVOID CROWDS OR INCIDENTS, (G) NOTIFY SUPERIORS OF TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF ADDIS AND (H) AVOID TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF TOWN EXCEPT TO THOSE AREAS FREQUENTLY TRAVELED BY FOREIGNERS. DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT RECOMMENDATIONS ARE BASICALLY COMMON SENSE ONES, AND
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WOULD APPLY TO MANY PROBLEM AREAS OVERSEAS. WHILE THEY MAY NOT BE FOOLPROOF, WE CONSIDER THEM TO BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION. OUR CONCERN IN PROPOSING THAT TOURISTS AND NON-OFFICIAL VISITS BE DISCOURAGED AT THIS TIME IS TO MINIMIZE POSSIBILITY THAT SOMEONE NOT FAMILIAR WITH LOCAL CONDITIONS MIGHT WONDER INTO TROUBLE. AT PRESENT, LOCAL INCIDENTS HAVE NOT BEEN DIRECTED TOWARDS FOREIGN COMMUNITY. BRITISH, UN,

CANADIANS AND OTHER MISSIONS GENERALLY INTERPRET SITUATION AS WE DO AND ARE INSTRUCTING THEIR PEOPLE ALONG COMPARABLE LINES.

3. MY GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT PRESENT SITUATION IN ADDIS PART OF CYCLICAL UP AND DOWN SWINGS IN VIOLENCE WE HAVE EXPERIENCED FOR SOME TIME AND THAT GOVERNMENT WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO LET SITUATION CONTINUE AS IS, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO KEBELE AND WORKERS' DEFENSE SQUADS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR SITUATION CLOSELY AND COUNTRY TEAM WILL ADVISE WASHINGTON AGENCIES OF FURTHER STEPS WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED IF AND WHEN NECESSARY.
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